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NEWS RELEASE

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**STOCKTON MAN SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR IMPERSONATING
A DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION AGENT**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that RICARDO SIMENTAL 43, of Stockton, was sentenced today by Senior United States District Judge Edward J. Garcia to 15 months in a federal prison, and was ordered to pay \$13,660 in restitution to the victims of his fraud. The defendant was found guilty of three counts of impersonating a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent by a jury on March 16, 2006.

This case was the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the Stockton Police Department, Vice Unit, and the DEA.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Carolyn Delaney, who prosecuted the case, the evidence introduced at trial showed that SIMENTAL represented himself to numerous people as a DEA agent, and a DEA attorney, even going so far as to give a speech at the local Rotary Club touting his alleged non-profit organization for at-risk children. The evidence presented to the jury, however, proved that SIMENTAL has never been employed by the DEA, nor was his organization "non-profit." In sentencing the defendant Judge Garcia said that the defendant deserved the sentence imposed because he continues to deny responsibility for his actions.

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